AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for creating a logical device based on reconciliation of virtual data unit requirements and storage unit capabilities, comprising the steps of:

determining storage characteristic requirements for a virtual data unit by reading from an inventory of virtual data unit requirements;

processing the storage characteristic requirements to map said storage characteristic requirements into storage implementation methodologies using a storage methodology inventory;

identifying which storage implementation methodologies are mapped to potential subsystems or devices using management information that provides a storage unit capabilities inventory;

communicating the virtual data unit to one or more of the available potential storage subsystems; and

creating, in the storage subsystem, a logical device to map the virtual data unit, said storage characteristic requirements being maintained at a data management level instead of being maintained at a device management level.

~~A virtual stored data management subsystem, the virtual stored data management subsystem comprising:~~

~~one or more hosts;~~

~~a pool of heterogeneous storage comprising a plurality of physical storage devices, wherein at least two of the physical storage devices have a type of physical storage media different from one another; and~~

~~a plurality of virtual data units functionally coupled to the one or more hosts, wherein the plurality of virtual data units includes associated management information such that the management information provides first and second boundaries such that the first and second boundaries limit preferences in which to map the virtual data units into logical device definitions within the stored data management subsystem, the logical device definitions defining a logical storage device which is mapped to the pool of~~

~~heterogeneous storage such that the logical storage device is implemented using different types of physical storage devices.~~

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored data management subsystem~~ of claim 1, wherein the management information is related to attributes of the storage unit capabilities ~~virtual stored data management subsystem~~ utilizing a plurality of rules.

5. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored data management subsystem~~ of claim 4, wherein the plurality of rules are variable.

6. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored data management subsystem~~ of claim 5, wherein the variable rules are an algorithm.

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored management subsystem~~ of claim 1, wherein the management information is processed in accordance with storage element attributes and further comprises:

deriving relationships that define a [[the]] first and second boundaries; and

stipulating the first and second boundaries, wherein stipulated first and second boundaries includes stated relationships from derived relationships.

8. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored management subsystem~~ of claim 7, wherein the relationships exist only on demand.

9. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored management subsystem~~ of claim 7, wherein the relationships are a combination of storage subsystem relationships.

10. (Currently amended) The method ~~virtual stored management subsystem~~ of claim 9, wherein the combination of storage subsystem relationships includes a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) and a hierarchical storage management (HSM).

11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method for creating a logical device based on storage characteristic requirements, comprising the steps of:

determining storage characteristic requirements for a virtual data unit by reading from an inventory of virtual data unit requirements;

processing the storage characteristic requirements to map said storage characteristic requirements into storage implementation methodologies using a storage methodology inventory;

identifying which storage implementation methodologies are mapped to potential subsystems using a storage subsystem capabilities inventory;

communicating the virtual data unit to a storage subsystem; and

creating, by the storage subsystem, a logical device to map the virtual data unit, wherein the storage characteristic requirements are maintained at a data level in lieu of being maintained at a device level.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the storage characteristic requirements comprise performance requirements, availability requirements, reliability requirements and capacity requirements.

17. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the storage characteristic requirements comprise performance requirements, availability requirements, reliability requirements and capacity requirements.